1:Beals E-5 (1940-1941)1946 NU34 Tarasco NU34

136 to the fauna is equally unsatisfactory. Despite the extensive forests, wild life is scarce. No
136 one in Cherán gets a living from hunting, and
224 the amount of game taken forms an inconsiderable amount of the food supply. Deer and peccary are sometimes hunted and occasionally damage outlying fields, but they do not seem to be numerous. Squirrels, rabbits, wild pigeons, and quail are among the animals of most economic importance. Badgers are known, but are not eaten. An exception to the general scarcity of wild life is the coyote. This animal appears to be numerous and to be a danger to livestock in the outskirts of the town. Larger predatory animals, such as the jaguar and the mountain lion, are unknown. Informants could recall only one mountain lion being seen or killed in the vicinity of the town. The region is, of course, too high for the absence of the jaguar to be surprising, but smaller members of the genus *Felis* are also rare. Only the wildcat is reported. The rattlesnake and *culebrilla* occur, but are not common. As there are few handicrafts practiced in Cherán, the community is consequently primarily agricul-
[311] tural and the only use of the forests is for lumbering, charcoal making, and grazing.

Little need be said about the people of Cherán
142 or their language. Although white admixture certainly exists in the town's population, there
[144] are virtually no acknowledged Mestizos. Until studies of the Tarascan population are completed, it perhaps will suffice to say that the people of Cherán seem to be typical Tarascans, on the average relatively short and slender, although stocky individuals are not uncommon. Their complexion is relatively dark, the hair is straight, and the features are attractive. Corpulence in old age is very rare. Goiter or
164 incipient goiter is common, especially in the
147 mountain towns, although the disease is less frequent in Cherán than in many other settlements. Teeth are bad, a condition observed for the area in pre-Columbian remains also. Not only are caries frequent, but malocclusion is common. Individuals with attractive regular teeth are the exception. (Pls. 1, upper and lower right; 2; 3, center and lower right and left.)

197 The language of Cherán is Tarascan, a tongue which shows relatively few dialectic differences.

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827 linear body build which was repeated in the
143 children, "who looked as though a wind would blow them away," yet otherwise seemed healthy. As an exception, there was cited the case of two girls with red hair and blue eyes in one family. The children were not seen and might have been albinos, but the large number of persons who have visited the United States suggests other explanations. Another case was cited in which
● [142] the parents had black hair and the fairly dark skin common among Tarascans. Three sons all had dark-red or auburn hair, and the skin, although equally dark, showed also darker spots resembling freckles. In later years the freckles spread until the skin became a solid color, darker than that of either parent.

732 Occasional examples occur of children apparently deficient in mentality. Some continue to show childish reactions and behaviors, laugh a great deal without occasion, do not care for their clothing, eat badly, and do not seem to understand well even when approaching adult years. Nevertheless, no adults were encountered who seemed to exhibit insanity or feeblemindedness.

854 Few special attentions to infants are recorded. There is no use of ashes or leaving of corn ears or fire pokers with infants when they are left alone, but a broom of straw may be left at the head of the child's bed for protection against evil if the mother wishes to leave it for a few minutes. Children are nursed freely whenever
853 they desire the breast. Although some evi-
[834] dence of shyness was evident, for example, some mothers draped their *rebozo* over the breast, nursing takes place in a variety of public circumstances, on the streets or on the roads, and even while riding on a burro. Through the first year or so the child sleeps with the nipple of the mother's breast in its mouth at night. Perhaps as a result of this there is a virtually complete absence of thumb sucking at all ages.

854 Infants are ordinarily carried by their mothers, almost invariably wrapped in the *rebozo*. Even if the child is carried in the arm, the *rebozo* is slung around the child and over the shoulders to take part of the weight. Ordinarily a small child is slung more or less horizontally in the *rebozo* on the mother's back. One end of the *rebozo* goes under the left arm, the other over the right shoulder, the two ends

9: Lasker D-5 (1948)1953 NU34 Tarasco NU34
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no significant difference in head form as measured by the average cephalic index. Also, although facial breadth is characteristically wider in Mongoloids than in other peoples, the Indians of each sex in this series are not broader in the face than the Mestizos — either in respect to bizygomatic diameter or when this is taken as a ratio of the total facial height — or of the upper facial height. When it comes to stature, however, the Indians of both sexes tend to be shorter on the average than the respective Mestizos. A previous study indicates that differences in stature are found between individuals in the same series who had spent some of their formative years as temporary migrants to the United States and those who had remained in Mexico.[8] Such differences represent the effects of milieu. It is quite possible, therefore, that any variations in stature between so-called Indians and Mestizos are also due to factors in their conditions of life — especially diet — rather than to any inherited racial differences between the two groups.

Most of the traits which would be expected to distinguish American Indians from Europeans are descriptive attributes which have been counted rather than measured. Among these are dark brown eyes, black hair, straight hair, prominent cheek bones (malars), and markedly concave front teeth (shovel-shaped incisors). These traits are in fact slightly more common in the Indians than in the Mestizos (See figures 1-5). Among males, all five of these characteristics are found in 33 per cent of 97 Indians, but they also occur in 19 per cent of 100 Mestizos. The only males to lack all five factors are four of the 100 Mestizos. For the females the five characters are all found in 29 per cent of 55 Indians and in 21 per cent of 72 Mestizos. None of the females examined lacked all of these Mongoloid traits. As far as these particular features are concerned most of the members of the community, whether regarded as Indians or not, show some Indian characteristics.

There are other conditions which are considered Mongoloid. A fold of the upper eyelid which covers the inner corner of the free lash-bearing margin (internal epicanthic fold) is one of them. General deficiency of facial and bodily hair is another such trait. Jutting of the teeth (prognathism) is a third. As will be seen in figures 6-8, however, neither eyefolds, mid-digital hair on the back of the fingers, nor prognathism differentiates Indians from Mestizos in this group of Mexicans.

A higher proportion of the persons categorized as Indians falls in the older age groups. As some traits are affected by age, it is necessary to make allowance for this factor. For instance, eyefolds tend to shift from internal to external types with age; yet age by age in this series similar proportions of the various types are found in Indians and Mestizos.

[8] Gabriel W. Lasker, "Environmental Growth Factors and Selective Migration," Human Biology, 24: 262-280 (1952).

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Frequency (in percent) of various racial traits by ethnic group